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PATENT

DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 20 DEC 2004

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Gerard VALAT et al. Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE Group

Filed December 20, 2004 Examiner

BOOT HAVING A FLOATING ARTICULATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 20, 2004

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

An **Appendix** is attached following the signature page of this paper.